MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

LIBERTY

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

MULBERRY BAPTIST CHURCH,

OCTOBER 4th and 5th, 1889.

PRINTED BY J. F. WARREN, Tuskaloosa.

MINUTES.

On Friday, before the first Sabbath in October, 1889, the Ministers and Delegates composing the Liberty Association, met with the Mulberry Church, Bibb County. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. W. G. Hubbard, from the latter clause of the 5th verse of the 11th chapter of Matthew :—"The poor have the Gospel preached to them." After which, a recess of one hour was given to partake of dinner, which was prepared and at the church.

Then the Delegates assembled in the house, joined in singing, and prayer offered by the former Moderator, Rev. W. G. Hubbard, who then took his seat and called the Association to order, declaring it partially organized and ready for the transaction of business.

The Letters from the Churches were read by J H. Payne and J. T. Hubbard, reading committee, and names of the Delegates enrolled as follows :

HAYSOP—W. G. Hubbard, G. W. Townsend, S. C. Hubbard, J. T. Hubbard, J. W. Hubbard, and Barna. Thompson.

LIBERTY—F. M. Hobson, J. H. Deweese, Joab Shuttlesworth,* R. E. Howard,* and J. R. Wiggins.*

MULBERRY—B. W. Caddell, Elza Fikes, A. J. Mayfield, W. H. Halmon, and A. D. Fikes.

PLEASANT HILL—H. H. Johnson, R. F. Coley, William Tingle, J. D. Geddie, and A. B. Coley.

SOUTH SANDY—J. T. Tubb, J. R. Thompson,* David Sumner,* Sidney Dockery * and Marion Tubb.*

UNION—B. F. Clements, J. B. Keeton, J. M. Greathouse, and Jackson Brewer.*

PINE FLAT—W. D. Latner,* B. C. Latner, C. W. Arnold,* F. Hendrix.*

ELLIOTT'S CREEK—Wm. Phipps, J. M. Geddie, Carrol Dockery,* and Adam Mitchell.*

SPRING HILL—M. Morrison, Jr.,* L. C. Averett, L. M. Barnett, and A. J. Stewart.*

Absentees marked thus (*)

Then proceeded to elect a Moderator and Clerk, which resulted in the choice of Eld. W. G. Hubbard, Moderator, and A. J. Mayfield, Clerk.

The following Committees were then appointed :

ON DEVOTION—J. W. Hubbard, J. T. Tubb, Wm. Phipps, with the Deacons of Mulberry Church.

ON ARRANGEMENTS—J H. Deweese, F. M. Hobson, A. D. Fikes, with the Moderator and Clerk.

ON FINANCE—W. H. Halmon, J. T. Hubbard, B. C. Latner.

ON DOCUMENTS—J. R. Wiggins, L. C. Averett, J. H. Deweese.

ON TEMPERANCE—A. D. Fikes, F. M. Hobson, J. T. Tubb.

ON MISSIONS—J. D. Geddie, W. H. Halmon, M. Morrison, Jr.

ON EDUCATION—A. J. Mayfield, J. M. Geddie, Wm. Tingle.

Called for the report of the Committee on Devotion. Committee reported that Rev. J. H. Payne preach to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

On motion, adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. H. Payne.

SATURDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Joined in singing, and prayer by Bro. J. T. Tubb.

Called the Roll and marked absentees.

Called for the report of the Committee on Arrangements, which was read, received, and Committee discharged—Reported that the Association take up business as follows:

1st. Open the doors for Correspondence. Received Correspondence from the Harmony, by D. H. Lewis and Rev. R. S. Jones. From the Tuskaloosa, by Rev. J. H. Payne.

2nd. Invited Ministers to seats with us.

3d. Called for the report on Indigent Ministers. Received a verbal report from J. W. Hubbard, which was received and Committee discharged.

4th. Called for the report on Documents :—We, your Committee on Documents, beg leave to submit the following: We have examined all the documents on hand, and find nothing to claim your attention, only that Pine Flat Church asks for the next session of this body.

Respectfully submitted,
L. C. AVERETT, Chairman.

5th. Called for the report on Finance:—Received from the Churches, $16,00. Report received and Committee discharged.

On motion, A. J. Mayfield was appointed Treasurer.

6th. Called for the report on Sabbath Schools:—We, your Committee, that was appointed at the last Session, submit the following: We have organized Sabbath Schools in all the Churches in this Association. Some have met with success, while some have not. We think, however, that Sabbath Schools are on the gaining ground among us. Yours, &c.,

J. H. DEWEESE,
A. J. MAYFIELD, } Committee.
J. T. TUBB.

Adjourned two hours, for preaching and dinner.

Rev. J. H. Payne preached an interesting sermon to a large and attentive congregation, taking for his text the 22nd verse of the 3d chapter of 1st Corinthians, "Whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours."

After which, partook of dinner.

The delegates reassembled in the house, resumed business, bowing in prayer with the Moderator.

On motion, appointed a Committee on Sabbath Schools, and gave them their district to work in, viz:

To J. H. Deweese—Haysop, Liberty, and Union Churches.

To J. T. Tubb—South Sandy, Pleasant Hill, & Elliott's Creek Churches.

To A. J. Mayfield—Mulberry, Spring Hill, and Pine Flat Churches.

Returned Correspondence, as follows:

To the Tuskaloosa Association:—J. D. Geddie, F. M. Hobson, J. H. Deweese, J. T. Tubb—Hobson to write.

To the Mulberry Association :—Wm Phipps, L C Averett, J M Geddie—Geddie to write.

To the Harmony Association :—F M Hobson, J H Deweese, Bar. Thompson, and G W Townsend—Deweese to write.

The next Session of this Association will be held with the Pleasant Hill Church, Hale County, Ala., commencing on Friday before the first Sabbath in October, 1890, F M Hobson to preach the Introductory Sermon, W G Hubbard, alternate.

On motion, W G Hubbard is to preach at 11 o'clock, Sabbath morning, at the next Session of this body.

The next District Meeting of this Association will be held with the Liberty Church, Tuskaloosa Co., Ala., commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1890, A D Fikes to preach the Introductory Sermon, Malcomb Morrison, Jr., alternate. Subject for discussion is: The annual call of a Pastor, the better plan for him and the Churches, or a call without limitation. Opened by R F Coley.

On motion, it was agreed that the Clerk superintend the printing of 300 copies of these Minutes, and retain 50 copies for correspondence, together with the balance of the money on hand, for his services, and that he act as distributing agent.

The Devotional Committee reported prayer meeting Sabbath morning, at 10 o'clock, led by A. J. Mayfield; preaching by Rev. F. M. Hobson, followed by Rev. R. S. Jones.

The Association having finished all the business before it, sung an appropriate hymn, and took the parting hand. Prayer by D. H. Lewis.

Adjourned, to meet at the time and place before written.

W. G. HUBBARD, Moderator.

A. J. MAYFIELD, Clerk.

The Association returns its thanks to the brethren and sisters of Mulberry Church, and the citizens of the vicinity, for their generous hospitality and kind treatment, during our stay among them.—CLERK.

[SABBATH.—Rev. F. M. Hobson preached an interesting Sermon to a large and attentive congregation, from the 16th verse of the 16th chapter of St. Mark: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."—CLERK.]

ARTICLES OF CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the different churches, chosen by their own bodies, in our union, who on producing letters, certifying their appointment as delegates by their churches, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The delegates thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the Liberty Baptist Association, who shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but merely be considered an advisory council, in all matters relative to their internal concerns. Nevertheless, it becomes necessary in some cases to have a uniform rule of procedure, viz: If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction; and, if satisfaction cannot thus be obtained, it shall be the duty of the aggrieved church to bring the matter before the Association, to be decided upon according to its merits. And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which, upon labor she cannot reconcile, she shall call the aid of two or more churches to

assist in the work; and, if the difficulty be not thus removed, it shall be the duty of the church to bring the case to the Association to be acted upon as above described. But the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued.

3. The churches of our union shall transmit, to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their messengers, dismissed by letter, excommunicated, restored, and deceased, since the last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

4. Every church in our union shall be entitled to a representation in the following manner, viz: A church containing fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three representatives, and one additional representative for every twenty-five over fifty. Any church failing to represent herself as above described, shall state reasons at the next Association.

5. Newly constituted churches shall be admitted into our union by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, their reception shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper rule of decorum, which she is authorized to alter or amend according to her own views.

7. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be chosen by and from among the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum be strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association upon all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall be chosen in the same manner, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings of the Convention.

8. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union any church who may violate the Constitution or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

9. The Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

10. Every query sent by a particular church must be inserted in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile, and has failed. In such a case, the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

11. Queries that immediately concern the general union of the churches, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided on as soon as practicable.

12. Any church in our union, having a member whom she may think possesses promising talents for the ministry, she shall, after a thorough conviction that he is called of the Lord to work, proceed to license him to preach the Gospel, at discretion, and report the same at next session of Association.

13. Any church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work, and all presbyteries, in the ordination of ministers and deacons, or the constitution of churches, shall be governed by the Articles of Faith of this Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied from the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their messengers, and paid over to the committee on finance. The committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty

it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make, at every session, a fair and substantial report of all their proceedings

15. There shall be an Association book provided, in which the minutes of every annual session shall be regularly recorded by the Clerk, who shall receive an annual compensation for his services.

16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until it shall have finished all the business on hand—unless it be in extraordinary cases.

17. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

18. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

19. Giving or withheld charity from any benevolent object shall not be considered a breach of fellowship of this Association.

20. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any session, when two-thirds of the members present may deem necessary.

ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one only living and true God—the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. 2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose His people in Christ before the foundation of the world. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. 5. We believe in man's capacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them. 8. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 8. We believe that the saints shall be preserved in grace and never fall away. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that immersion is the only Apostolic Baptism. 10. We believe that our Lord and Master washed His disciples feet; we ought to wash one another's feet. 11. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. 12. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel but one who is baptized, and comes under the imposition of the hands of the presbytery. 13. We believe that none but regularly baptized believers have a right to commune together at the Lord's table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer. 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present. 3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order and have a discretionary right to call to order at any time. 4. Any member not satisfied with the decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but

at no other time. 5. None but one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, address the Moderator, and on obtaining leave, proceed. 6. The Moderator when addressed for permission to speak shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it. 8. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered. 9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject by yeas and nays, or otherwise. 10. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain leave of the Moderator. 11. No members shall speak more than twice on the same proposition, without leave of the Association; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through. 12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in the Association in their addresses to each other. 13. The names of the members shall be called as often as the Association may direct. 14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice that may tend to interrupt public speaking. 15. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time; but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided. 16. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator, as directed by the Association—but only on the day the breach shall have been made. 17. These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and shall be altered or amended when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.

Received of A. J. Mayfield, $9, payment in full for printing 325 copies of these Minutes.

JNO. F. WARREN, Printer,
Tuskaloosa, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	P. OFFICE	COUNTY	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dis. by Le'ter	Excluded	Deceased	Present No.	Previous No.	Money sent
Haysop	W G Hubbard	Scottsville	Bibb	6		1	2	3	2	131	131	$3.00
Liberty.....	W G Hubbard	Scottsville	Bibb	9	7		1	1	1	85	68	2.00
Pleasant Hill	J R Wiggins	Hagler	Tuskaloosa	3	14			1		89	73	1.50
Spring Hill...	A. D. Fikes	Pondville	Bibb	3		1	3		2	42	42	1.75
Mulberry	F M Hobson	Hagler	Tuskaloosa		1		6	1		82	89	2.50
Elliott's Creek	J R Wiggins	Hagler	Tuskaloosa							34		1.00
Pine Flat.....	J R Wiggins	Hagler	Tuskaloosa	2	3			1		53	49	1.50
Union	A. D. Fikes	Pondville	Bibb		1					38	38	1.50
South Sandy..	F. M Hobson	Hagler	Tuskaloosa	6			3			93	94	1.25